

What is Claimed:

1. A method for removing excess material from a contact lens having a functional size, comprising:
swelling said contact lens through contact with a first liquid to provide a swollen contact lens that is larger than said functional size; and
shrinking said swollen contact lens through contact with a second liquid.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said first liquid and said second liquid have different ionic strengths.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein said first liquid has a greater ionic strength than said second liquid.
4. The method according to claim 3, wherein said first liquid, said second liquid, or both comprise a buffered aqueous solution.
5. The method according to claim 4, wherein said first liquid, said second liquid, or both comprise sodium chloride, boric acid, sodium borate, dihydrogen sodium phosphate, sodium citrate, sodium acetate, sodium bicarbonate or any combination thereof.
6. The method according to claim 4, wherein said buffered aqueous salt solution comprises about 0.01 percent to about 10 percent by weight salt.
7. The method according to claim 1, wherein said second liquid comprises distilled water or deionized water.
8. The method according to claim 2, wherein the ionic strengths of the first liquid and the second liquid differ by about 3 to about 30 milli-Siemens/cm.
9. The method according to claim 1, wherein said swelling step introduces greater than 5 percent more water into said contact lens.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein said swelling step increases the diameter of said contact lens by at least about 1 mm.
11. The method according to claim 1, wherein said contact lens comprises a soft contact lens comprising from 0 to about 90 percent water.
12. The method according to claim 1, wherein said swelling, said shrinking, or both are performed for about 2 minutes to about 400 minutes.
13. The method according to claim 1, wherein said swelling, said shrinking, or both are performed at a temperature between about 5 and about 95°C
14. The method according to claim 1, wherein said contact lens further comprises a diluent and said method further comprises removing said diluent from said contact lens.
15. The method according to claim 14, wherein said diluent is removed prior to said swelling.
16. The method according to claim 14, wherein said contact lens swells during said diluent removal.
17. The method according to claim 1, wherein said contact lens is tinted.
18. The method according to claim 1, wherein said contact lens comprises a HEMA-based hydrogel.
19. The method according to claim 18, wherein said HEMA-based hydrogel is etafilcon A.